

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. Support for the amendments is found in Applicants' specification at least at Figs. 15(A), 15(B), 16 and 19. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on August 13, 2009. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449.

The Office Action is facially unclear about which references are being applied. It is assumed that the Office Action has rejected claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,032 to Burt et al. (hereinafter "Burt") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,786,904 to Narita, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,499 to Okada et al. (hereinafter "Okada"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 recites, among other features, "a layout adjustor that: ... (2) references setting information for setting a printer and information of the paper size and automatically enlarges or reduces each of the plurality of image data to layout on the sheet of recording paper when the plurality of image data is selected by the image selector and the first print mode is selected by the print mode selector, (3) superimposes the plurality of image data to layout on the sheet of recording paper when the plurality of image data is selected by the image selector and the second print mode is selected by the print mode selector." The Office Action has not asserted that Burt discloses this features.

In fact, Burt fails to disclose the above-quoted features. Specifically, Burt fails to disclose a layout adjuster that corresponds to the feature "(2) ... the plurality of image data is selected by the image selector and the first print mode is selected by the print mode selector." Burt also fails to disclose the layout adjuster that corresponds to the feature "the plurality of

image data is selected by the image selector and the second print mode is selected by the print mode selector." Narita and Okada, individually or in combination, fail to cure these deficiencies of Burt.

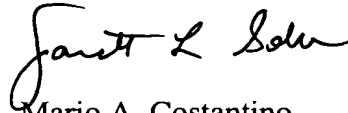
For at least the above reasons, Burt cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have rendered obvious, the combination of features positively recited in independent claim 14. Further, as shown above, Narita and Okada are not applied in any manner that would overcome the above-identified shortfall in the application of Burt to the subject matter of independent claim 14. To any extent that Burt is even combinable with Narita and/or Okada, a conclusion which Applicants do not concede, no permissible combination of these references can reasonably be considered to have rendered obvious the combination of all of the features positively recited in claims 12, 13 and 15, for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately allowable subject matter that these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 18, 2009

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